

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraphs at page 10, lines 16-23, with the following paragraphs:

Figure 1 shows Figures 1A-1P show graphs demonstrating the stability of calibrators having varying pH's at 37°C over time.

Figure 2 shows Figures 2A-2P show graphs demonstrating the stability of calibrators having varying pH's at 2-8°C over time.

Figure 3 shows Figures 3A-3T show graphs demonstrating the stability of calibrators having varying pH's at 37°C and 2-8°C over time.

Please replace the paragraphs at page 24, line 29, through page 25, line 2, with the following paragraph:

The AxSYM® system measured the alkaline phosphatase conversion of MUP to 4-methylumbelliferon (MU) by the rate of formation of the fluorescent product, MU. The aforementioned rates are typically measured in counts per second per second. The assay was conducted twice for each calibrator. The results in Table 2A below and Figure 1 Figures 1A-1P show the mean of the two assays.

Please replace the paragraph at page 27, lines 11-16, with the following paragraph:

The data in Table 2A and Figure 1 Figures 1A-1P demonstrate that calibrators having a pH in the range of from about 4.0 to about 6.5, particularly at pH 5.6, exhibited enhanced accelerated stability compared to similar formulations with a pH of about 7.4. In calibrators 1-8 and the experimental control diluent calibrator, the rates for the "F" calibrators, i.e., 1F, 2F, 3F, 4F, 5F, etc. (hereinafter referred to as the "Cal-F" rates) fell much faster through 14 days of stability study than the Cal-F rates in calibrators 9-16 which were similar formulations but at a different pH.

Please replace the paragraph at page 29, lines 21-23, with the following paragraph:

A BNP immunoassay was performed on an AxSYM® instrument as described in Example 1. The assay was conducted twice for each calibrator. The results in Table 4 below and Figure 2 Figures 2A-2P show the mean of two assays.

Please replace the paragraph at page 31, lines 3-6, with the following paragraph:

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The data in Table 4 and Figure 2 Figures 2A-2P demonstrate that calibrators having a pH in the range of from about 4.0 to about 6.5 (calibrators 9-16) exhibited less of a signal decrease than the corresponding calibrators 1-8 at a pH of about 7.4. This enhanced long term stability was observed through 271 days at 2-8°C.

Please replace the paragraph at page 33, lines 4-8, with the following paragraph:

A BNP immunoassay was performed on an AxSYM® instrument as described in Example 1, the only change being that about 0.50 µg/mL of MAb BC203-conjugate in a conjugate buffer containing BSA, fish gelatin, Brij-35 and sodium azide was used. The assay was conducted twice for each calibrator. The results in Table 6 below and Figure 3 Figures 3A-3T show the mean of the two assays.

Please replace the paragraph at page 35, lines 2-8, with the following paragraph:

The data in Table 6 and Figure 3 Figures 3A-3T demonstrate that calibrators having a pH in the range of from about 4.0 to about 6.5 (calibrators in diluents 1, 4-8) exhibited less of a signal decrease than the calibrators in diluents 2-3 (at pH's of 3.91 and 3.47, note that #3 had low signal even at 0 time) and calibrators in diluents 9-10 (pH's 7.04 and 10.04) at 37°C accelerated stability. At 2-8°C, little change in F Cal rates was observed through 14 days except for diluent #3 which had low signal even at 0 time and for diluent # 10 which decreased by 18.5%.